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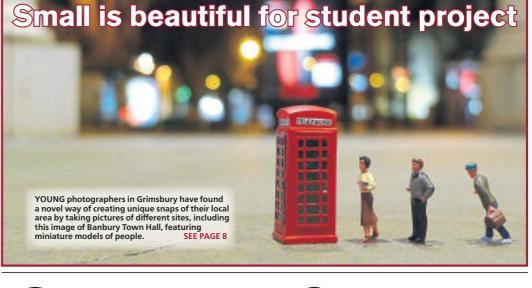
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# **IRES W**

ALL of Banbury's children's centres will stay open, but with reduced services under new plans put forward by social care bosses.

Oxfordshire County Council said the centres would be part of a new set-up of 18 facilities across the county, serving youngsters aged up to 19.

The Banbury Early Intervention Hub, in Hilton Road, is to become one of eight "children and family centres", with the East Street Children's Centre, in Calder Close, an extra "base" of it.

Meanwhile the Sunshine Centre in Edmunds Road, the North Banbury Centre at Hardwick School and the Britannia Road Centre in Grove Street would all become so-called "outreach centres" running childcare and limited council services with the help of community groups.

The county council previously proposed shutting all but the Banbury Early Intervention Hub, amid plans to close Oxfordshire's 44 children's centres and seven early intervention hubs.

The changes have been funded by an extra £2m saved from budget cuts in February and follow widespread protests by parents against the closures.

Melinda Tilley, cabinet member for children, education and families, said: "We have listened to what campaigners Matt Oliver moliver@ngo.com

said and we hope they will be pleased with these latest proposals.

"But there is no escaping that some things are still going to have to go that

Jill Huish, of the Save Oxfordshire's Children's Centres campaign, said she was still concerned for people in other parts of the county who were currently served by centres in rural areas such as

Bodicote, which still faced closure.
She said: "Under these plans some people will still have to travel miles to reach a children's centre.

"Parents may not be able to get the vital support they need and we could end up with 'invisible families' across the county, which would lead to worse problems later on. Just because you live in a rural area." live in a rural area it does not mean there is no deprivation."

Under the plans to reorganise children's services in Oxfordshire, 44 children's centres are due to lose funding in March 2017 along with seven early intervention hubs.
They will be replaced with a new ser-

vice for youngsters aged up to 19 that will have three types of centre and a mobile bus service.

The eight "children and family centres" funded by the county council will offer targeted services for vulnerable families such as support for domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health and parenting advice.

They would also offer some universal services and be supported by the two extra "bases"

Meanwhile the other eight "outreach" centres, which already offer childcare, would be self-funding and offer lim-ited services supported by community groups and social workers who would

The county council says it is also set to offer some activities such as "stay and play" at its 43 libraries and will train staff to spot signs of neglect and abuse.



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## One-stop help for wellbeing

A NEW one-stop service to treat anxiety and depression for people living in Oxfordshire is being launched this week.

TalkingSpace Plus will offer therapies and 'wellbeing activities' as part of a partnership between Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, Oxfordshire Mind and Principal Medical Ltd.

Its launch coincides with the start of Mental Health Awareness Week, which runs until Sunday and seeks to remove the stigma around mental health conditions.

around mental health conditions. In the past the services have been offered by three separately commissioned organisations, but clinical lead June Dent said this made it easier for people to get help. For information visit talkingspaceplus.org.uk

#### £1,200 raised

STAFF at Banbury's branch of the Leeds Building Society have raised £1,200 for Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal by selling pin badges.

The High Street store has been raising the money this year to help nurses provide more free care to people living with terminal illnesses in their own homes

Branch manager Claire Hill said: "The Great Daffodil Appeal has again been very popular in our branch. "Customers have been very

"Customers have been very generous and our colleagues in Banbury also got into the spirit throughout the campaign."

Last year staff also raised £306 by holding a raffle for the Alzheimer's Society.

### Helping bees

A HOUSEBUILDER has pledged to introduce "bee-friendly" plants at its new 65-home development in Adderbury.

David Wilson Homes, which is building in Milton Road, says it is trying to support the threatened pollinators.

The flowers and shrubs will be planted in the gardens of its sales centres and showhomes to help boost bee numbers.

Managing director John Fitzgerald said: "We want to help raise awareness of the very real threat that British bees are facing and do our bit to prevent bee numbers from dwindling further."

GOT A STORY?
Call Kieran Davey on
01865 425433

### Trails set to give visitors experience of life in wartime

STAFF at Upton House will be taking visitors back to the wartime era as part of their half term activities.

The National Trust-owned site, near Banbury, has been running 1940s activities so far this year and later this month will be holding children's trails on the theme of Dig for Victory.

Children will be encouraged to explore the gardens and find out about how the nation fed itself while at war, and there will be real Second World War posters and children's characters to

help.
Visitor experience manager
Haidee Williams said: "The
house is very interactive and
hands-on, which has proved

really popular with families."
The trails run from May 28 to June 5, but they will be closed on June 2.

Trails will cost £2 per child with normal admission prices also applying.

#### Movie legend Richard Harris's former home is on the market for £600,000



Actor Richard Harris's former home is up for sale in Warmington

EVER wanted to live in the same house as a legendary wizard?

At first glance the idyllic village of Warmington, five miles north of Banbury, might not appear a suitable abode for a Hogwarts headmaster, but it is the former home of actor Richard Harris.

The 17th century Grade
II-listed house has been put
up for sale by estate agents
Strutt & Parker and could be
vours for £600.000.

yours for £600,000.

Mr Harris was known for his roles on screen, including King Arthur in Camelot and Professor Dumbledore in the first two Harry Potter films.

The actor, who passed away in 2002, was not the only famous face to live in the village. Norman Painting, who played Phil Archer in the iconic BBC Radio 4 series, lived there until his death in 2009.

The house itself, named Cedar Bank, is a three-bedroom detached built of Hornton Stone with a slate roof. For more infomation visit struttandparker.com

## Polish man found dead in his flat after an overdose

Police discovered man had contacted online forum about methods of suicide

Kieran Davey kdavey@nqo.com

A MACHINE operator living in Banbury spoke to others online about ways to kill himself weeks before committing suicide.

Andrzej Dziemiach, originally from Poland, was found dead in his flat by his landlady Angela Green after overdosing on alcohol and drugs.

In a statement read out at Oxford

In a statement read out at Oxford Coroner's Court last week, Ms Green said she had been told on January 9 by two other flat holders in Marlborough Place that they had not seen or heard from Mr Dziemiach for nearly a week, and were worried when they saw mail niling up by his door.

saw mail piling up by his door.

Ms Green unlocked the flat's front door with her master key and found the 25-year-old slumped by the fridge in his kitchen.

She called paramedics who found an empty bottle of vodka and a plas-

tic bag filled with white tablets on a chest of drawers near the fridge.

He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Pathologist Professor Ian Roberts said in a statement that Mr Dziemiach had a history of mental health issues, and the court also heard he had spoken to doctors about wanting to end his life.

Prof Roberts added that there were no recent fractures on the body, although a bruise had been found on his chest.

But it was thought this may have come when he fell on to the fridge.

Detective Constable Ian Gibbard, from Banbury police station, said when police arrived at the flat they found a laptop still turned on. They discovered Mr Dziemiach

They discovered Mr Dziemiach had talked to others online on a forum about ways to self harm using drugs.

Assistant coroner Jeremy Chipperfield recorded a verdict of suicide, adding that there were no signs of trauma or that Mr Dziemiach had died of natural causes

died of natural causes.

He told the court: "It is clear he took the drugs and alcohol by himself"







## Middle Age tradition for cutting grass continues

Mr Hawtin follows in footsteps of ancestors and uses scythe to do annual grass-strewing

Kieran Davev kdavey@nqo.com

FOR at least three centuries residents of a North Oxfordshire village have gathered once a year to see one of the more unusual church traditions.

And once again on Saturday, Shening-ton-born Christopher Hawtin took on the annual task of grass-strewing from the churchyard of the village's parish church.

Like his ancestors before him Mr

Hawtin took a scythe – which had been used since the 17th century – and cut fresh grass from outside the church to lay down on the building's aisles and

ay down on the building's assess and around the font.

It is believed the tradition dates back to the Middle Ages, and is timed to coincide with the Whitsun, on May 15, which marks the descent of the Holy

Spirit on Jesus Christ's disciples.

Mr Hawtin, of Stocking Lane, has been helping to strew the grass for nearly 40 years with his father Donald.

Before then the grass had been cut by Donald's uncle Percy Cook and his father Walker Cook - both residents of Shenington.

Mr Hawtin said: "We use the same scythe to cut the grass by hand that has been used by generations before.

"Probably no-one else knows how to

use it.
"The grass comes from an area within the churchyard itself, which is why it's kept so long before May. Longer grass works better.'

Village records of grass strewing go back to 1720, and it is thought the tradition has never stopped.
Residents also believe theirs is the

only church in the country that still strews grass, although a few still practise rush-bearing.



Christopher Hawtin taking on the annual tradition of strewing at the Shenington parish church. Picture: Claire Dumbreck

As is expected from such a long tradition, people gather each year to watch the work take place.
Mr Hawtin added: "People often come

from afar at this time of year to experience the sight and smell of a very old English tradition.

'We know of couples that specifically ask to get married when the grass is

"Some even ask for it to be taken out

for their wedding day because they

nave nay fever."

According to the Hawtin family, the tradition of putting down fresh grass dates back to the Middle Ages when the floor would likely have been covered with rushes

Therefore the grass would have had to

be changed once a year in the spring.

The grass will now remain in place for three weeks before being removed.

#### 510 new homes

WORK on 510 new homes on land off Hardwick Hill in Banbury has begun by housebuilders Ashberry Homes who are building two to five-bedroom homes as part of the first phase of the new Cherry Fields estate.

A £4.9 million primary school will be built and further investment has been promised for bus services, transport and highways improvements, public art and open spaces.

Ashberry Homes divisional sales manager Jane Yolland said there was strong interest in the site. She said: "Oxfordshire is highly sought-after and judging by the amount of enquiries we have already received about the homes at this development, we are confident it

will be popular with house-hunters."
She added visitors would be welcomed to the site from July, and a sales centre and showhome will be set up later this

The housebuilder says the wider development will contribute more than £12 million to the community as part of the planning agreement.

#### Horse rescued

FIREFIGHTERS rescued a horse trapped

in a horsebox in Banbury.

Crews were called to Southam Road on Sunday night and were faced with a horse stuck halfway into its box.

Firefighters used bolt cutters and other small equipment to free the horse – who was not thought to be trapped for long.

#### Plant giveaway

A SUMMER plant giveaway will be held in People's Park in Banbury on May 28. Staff from Banbury Town Council are

attempting to take advantage of hot weather and offer plants to people free in the park's community garden.
The giveaway will be between 10am

and 11.30am and will be on a first-come first-served basis.

### Volunteering work sees duo receive award nominations

Drivers swap buses for bikes

BUS drivers swapped their usual office for bikes this month to raise as much

money as possible for Helen and Douglas House hospice in Oxford. Staff at Stagecoach Oxfordshire set off on their bikes on May 1 to collectively

cycle 365 miles, passing through bus depots in Banbury, Oxford and Witney. Paul O'Callaghan, service delivery director; Matt Nield, Witney bus driver; and Doug Hedges, Chipping Norton bus driver, all cycled the most distance between the depots, helping Stagecoach to raise £1,000 so far.

Starting at Banbury, they travelled to Witney and then to Oxford before returning back to the Banbury Depot, clocking up a total of 75 miles each.

TWO Banbury volunteers received nominations at the Oxfordshire Charity & Volunteer Awards last week. Andy Willis, who helped set up the

Banbury branch of the Contact the Elderly charity, was nominated for the best new group award.

Mr Willis has worked in volunteering for more than a decade, including at Age UK Oxfordshire, the Banbury branch of the Workers' Education Association, and for MIND.

Jake Ellement, from the Banbury Community Action Group, was shortlisted for the environmental award.

The Oxfordshire Community Action Group Project Network took home the award for best community project from the ceremony at Oxford Town Hall.

The group co-ordinates more than 50 others across the county.

Project manager Simon Kenton said: "We're running 1,500 events per year for around 90,000 people and the model that we've used for our community action has even been used by national government.

"We are able to show with our system that it's working and that for every pound we're given we put £11 back into the county.

"We have a new team of staff starting with us and it's a great chance for them to see our success."

#### Meeting to discuss health care progress

PATIENTS, carers and the public can hear about how health bosses plan to improve care across the county at a meeting in Banbury next week

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) is hosting its board meeting in public from 9am to 12.45pm in the Main Hall, at the Town Hall Buildings, in Banbury, on Thursday, May

Chief executive David Smith will be updating the board and the public on what progress the group is making to improve patient care. Board members will also hear about the organisation's

Questions can be submitted to the board up to 48 hours before the meeting by emailing oxon.gpc@nhs.net

### Garage raid attempt

TWO men were spotted trying to break into a garage in St Annes Road in Banbury. Thames Valley Police said the pair were

een at the house at about 1am last Wednesday

It has asked anyone who saw anything to contact them, and warned neighbours to be vigilant against break-ins.

Call 101 with any information.

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### Police officers owed 11,398 days off in lieu

**POLICE officers in the Thames Valley** are owed 11,398 rest days for working when they should be off.

The figures were revealed by a Freedom of Information request, which showed forces in England and Wales owe their police officers the equivalent of 1,117 years back in rest days.

Graham Smith, chairman of TVP Federation, the body which represents rank and file officers said the figures came as no surprise, but added a lot of the days would be historical.

He said: "Our force does not allow any constables or sergeants to 'put them on the card'.

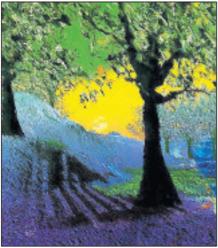
"A card is this mythical beast where officers put them on the card and store them up for use later on.

There is a problem with inspectors and above where, because of their workloads, there is quite a large accumulation of rest days. New officers coming in get their rest days re-allocated and there's an ability to change that rest day in consultation with the

resourcing teams."
National police chiefs' council lead for pay and conditions and TVP Chief Constable Francis Habgood said there were a number of reasons why an officer's rest day might be cancelled, which included requirements to attend court operational reasons or a specific

He added: "Cancelled rest days should be re-allocated within a reasonable timescale."





Clockwise from top left, work by Jenny Eadon; a babbling brook by Andrea Bates; Ella Hendy's work to be displayed in Naomi's Cafe Bar; ceramic shoes by artist Kate Hopkins, main picture; above, Sketch for Arden by Claire Reika Wright









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## **Inspirational art** display at festival

60 artists will open their studios and homes to give public unique insight

Kieran Davey kdavey@nqo.com

MORE than 60 artists, sculptors and photographers will be showcasing their artistic talents when the county's annual Artweeks festival heads

to Banbury next week.

Those taking part will be opening up their homes, studios and other venues for free to give the public a rare glimpse into their work and their inspiration for

creating pieces.
From fashion to furniture, collage, ceramics and mosaics, artists will be talking to visitors about their ideas and holding demonstrations so people can learn new artistic techniques.

Many of those taking part will be doing so for the first time, including married couple Gilbert Csecs and Tracy Jane from Banbury

The pair first became friends when they both attended meet-ings of the Banbury and District Art Society, and met at a Chipping Norton craft fair in 2013.

Mr Csecs's work, typically acrylic paintings and using oils, have been inspired by a range of

topics including Banbury, Devon and ballerinas.

He said: "I was interested in

the strength and muscle tones.

"Ballerinas demonstrate amaz-ing strength and yet such grace and beauty. The contrast is fascinating to me.

To learn new techniques the artist has also been visiting Bloxham Art Group, and since then has been practising using palette knives and toothbrushes to create different effects.

The couple, who married in August last year, will be donating 20 per cent of their proceeds from Artweeks to the restoration of the St Mary's Church roof. An appeal was launched in March after the roof became rot-

ten due to damp.
They will be showcasing their

artistry at home at 95 Broughton

Hanwell Fields resident Ella Hendy has been busy creating a unique piece to display in the an-nual exhibition at Naomi's Cafe Bar in Bridge Street.

The painting will include acrylics, wallpaper and newspaper on an A1 canvas board, which includes a picture of cafe owner Naomi Perkins, and two members of staff.

Visitors will be given free rein to draw on the painting, and at the end of the week it will be re-hung in the cafe permanently.

The mother-of-two said: "The cafe has such a community feel so I thought this was very fitting.

"It will be really exciting to see it evolve during the week It's scary relinquishing creative

control of the painting.
"I'll add some finishing touches when it is done and it will be a visual record of the first time Artweeks came to the cafe."
Among others taking part will

be Great Bourton artist Mar-tin Damen, who will be demonstrating how to make his handcrafted spoons and bowls daily at Honeysuckle Cottage on The Green.

The North Oxfordshire section of Artweeks will take place from May 21-30.

If you're a Downton fan, then you can travel a few extra miles and head over to Bampton where the artist Pip Shuckburgh has painted many of the scenes from the *Downton Abbey* series and turned them into mugs and other memorabilia.

Her scenes have a Lowry "stick man" flavour though they are

brighter in mood.

In the West Ox Arts Gallery in the Market Square, there is a cheery exhibition called Good

Art lovers can hear the story of a fascinating career in design over the past six decades from Pat Albeck, designer for the National Trust, Gisella Graham, and Emma Bridgewater among others, and whose early work is now collectable vintage.

## **Pupils prepare for start** of most stressful exams

Teachers fear some students may not be able to cope

PUPILS across Oxfordshire began their most stressful exam season ever this week under "huge pressure" to improve results.

But concerned teachers have warned

government efforts to raise standards amid fierce competition for jobs may leave some youngsters struggling to

Schools have said they are doing more than ever to make sure their pupils are as relaxed as possible and go into exams in the right state of mind to achieve

Controversial new SATs tests for primary school children have been criti-

cised for being too difficult.

And A-level students will now sit all their exams, in some subjects, in one go rather than spreading them over two

Lynn Knapp, headteacher at Windmill Primary School in Headington, said: "Pupils are under more stress than ever.

"They cannot not be aware of the tests. They sit at a table and are not allowed to speak. They are not allowed access to resources they would normally use and they are under a time restriction.

"We had a child on Monday who had a migraine and went home sick in the middle of the test. I am sure some of that is because she had not had a good night's sleep due to worry."

Mrs Knapp said the school tried to

prepare children as much as possible to reduce stress, but recently sent a letter telling parents results would probably not accurately reflect their child's abil-

ity.
GCSEs have also changed in recent years to discourage youngsters from re-sitting and coursework has been

Oxford Spires Academy headteacher Sue Croft said: "The pressure is big-ger than ever, but schools are also more able to cope with it than ever before.

"The thing that tends to affect pressure is the economic climate. How



much competition is out there for jobs

and university?
"They know everybody will know their grades and those grades will stay with them for a long time."

Ms Croft said pupils were given re-

laxation techniques and taught about mindfulness.

She also meets pupils who feel concerned in small groups and speaks to them about revision.

She said: "Getting them ready for ex-

ams is a big part of what we do."

Lewis Waring, 16, an Oxford Spires
Academy, student sitting his GCSEs,

said: "You get stress with exams because you want to succeed.

"If you think you will succeed and do not worry too much about the actual

exam I think you will be fine.
"The expectation has always been to succeed but that expectation is much more now. But teachers seem to know what they are doing and they give us help.

ChildLine, the NSPCC-run charity, said 3,077 young people had phoned its counsellors to talk about exam stress in the current academic year - a nine per cent rise from last year

### `Guatemala' is goal for cyclists

RIDERS taking part in this year's Banbury to Guatemala cycle challenge will be hoping to notch up 6,000 miles in one day on June 25.

The challenge was started by Banbury resident Billy Foster, a member of the group Young Adults with Purpose, to raise money for the Nicodemus Trust which supports young adults both here and in Guatemala.

Centred on Brackley Town Football Club, this year's cycle will include a 50-mile figure of eight circuit with different distances to suit riders.

To take part this year go to cycle@nicodemustrust.org.uk

#### £300 MoonWalk

A SIXTH Form student from near Banbury raised more than £300 by taking part in the London MoonWalk on

Hannah Wildwood, 18, took time out from her A-Levels revision to walk the 26.2-mile marathon course to support breast cancer charity Walk the Walk

The Sibford School student said: "It was a fantastic night.

"There were so many people cheering us on and the atmosphere was terrific. Thanks to all those who have supported

#### Strimmers stolen

A GARDEN strimmer and two hedge strimmers were stolen from a farm in Banbury.

Thieves broke into the garage in Wykham Lane between Sunday, May 8, at 6pm and 8am on Monday, May 9.

A child's bike was also stolen when thieves raided a garden shed in Western Crescent between Friday, May 6 and Monday, May 9.

Anyone with information about either of these crimes can call police on 101.

## Make it a birthday to remember......

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A ROUND-UP of cases heard recently at Oxford and Banbury Magistrates

#### **OXFORD**

ANDREW TRACEY, 51, of Lambs Crescent, Banbury, admitted sending a voice message that was grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character, in Banbury on March 29. Also admitted assaulting Martin Horne by beating him in Banbury on April 30. Handed a 24-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay a £20 victim surcharge and £85 costs.

#### **BANBURY**

HARRY STREET, 21, of Quarry Close, Bloxham, admitted possessing a controlled drug of class A, namely cocaine, at the Venus Nightclub, in Broad Street, Banbury, on March 12 this year. Handed a £250 fine and ordered to pay a £25 victim

surcharge and £85 costs.

CATALIN TRIFAN, 35, of Bretch clothing and fragrances worth £130 belonging to Debenhams in Banbury on March 7. Handed an £80 fine and ordered to pay a £20 victim

surcharge and £85 costs.

JARED WOODHOUSE, 29, of Chapel Street, Bicester, admitted stealing two bottles of men's aftershave worth £128.50 belonging to Debenhams in Castle Quay, Banbury, on April 7. Handed a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay a £15 victim surcharge. **LEON CATON**, 24, of Alma Road, Banbury, admitted possessing

cannabis, a controlled drug of Class B, at Banbury Police Station, in Warwick Road, on November 27 last year. Handed a £80 fine and ordered to pay a £20 victim surcharge and

THOMAS JACKSON, 20, of Marlborough Road, Banbury, admitted possessing cannabis, a controlled drug of class B, in Blackpool on January 24 this year Handed a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay a £15 victim surcharge and £85 costs. MAX KIRKWOOD, 20, of Newland

Place, Banbury, admitted burglary by entering the Whately Hall Hotel in Horse Fair, Banbury, as a trespasser and stealing bottles of alcohol to an unknown value on January 14 this year. Handed a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £20 compensation, a £15 victim surcharge and £40 costs

DAVID MANLY, 31, of Wellington Avenue, Banbury, admitted stealing a beef joint worth £9 belonging to the Co-op in Middleton Road Banbury, on December 19 last year. Handed a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £9 compensation, a £15 victim

surcharge and £45 costs.

CARLY MILES, 31, of Kenilworth Way, Banbury, admitted drink-driving a Ford Fiesta in Edinburgh Way, Banbury, on April 2 this ye Had 50 microgrammes of alcohol in 100ml of breath, above the 35 microgramme limit. Handed a £120 fine and ordered to pay a £20 victim surcharge and £85 costs. Also banned from holding or obtaining a driving licence for 15 months.

## Scales of justice Marathon task for fundraising golfer

Keen player will complete 146 holes and walk 26.2 miles in support of hospice

Kieran Davey kdavey@nqo.com

PLAYING a round of golf is usually enough for most players, but one Banbury man is going a few extra miles for charity.

Next month Kieron Shea will be attempting to walk 26.2 miles although unusually he will be playing 146 holes in the process.

The marathon challenge, on June 6-7 at Tadmarton Hearth Golf Club near Bloxham, is all to raise money for Helen & Douglas House.

Mr Shea, who works in industrial sales for cleaning technology firm Karcher UK in Banbury, was inspired to raise money for the charitv as his girlfriend's sister was

as his griffriend's sister was cared for at the hospice.

The 27-year-old said: "As hard as the challenge is going to be, I feel it will be something I will enjoy as well. I am proceding these to four well. I am practising three to four times a week as well as seeing my coach on a more frequent basis.

have also been doing some standard cardio work to help with



Kieron Shea in action

the endurance factor. I'm really looking forward to raising money and awareness for a great charity and I'm sure when I start I'll be looking forward to achieving my marathon golfing goal.'

On his reason for taking part, he said: "Knowing first-hand what they did for the whole family over the years means a lot to them and me.

He is aiming to raise about £500 by completing the challenge, and so far has received support from work colleagues, family and friends.

Helen & Douglas House community fundraiser Bobby Higson said: "Many commit to running 26.2 miles, and that is certainly hard enough.

"Kieron's mental and physical determination to also complete 146 holes of golf across that distance is truly mind-boggling - I can safely say I am glad it is him and not me.

"It is fantastic that he has chosen to take on this challenge in aid of Helen & Douglas House." Helen & Douglas House help

care for terminally ill children, young adults and their families by offering end-of-life hospice care.
They care for more than 300

young people across Oxfordshire and in other counties including Bedfordshire, Berkshire and Wiltshire.

To donate to the marathon

challenge go to justgiving.com/ fund raising/Kierons Golf Marathon.

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### Proposals for minibus use

MINIBUSES owned by Oxfordshire County Council could soon be ferrying pre-booked passengers around the county in a "unique" new transport scheme.

The local authority's cabinet is set to back the plans which would see its fleet of about 70 vehicles made available for anyone in the county to book, whether for group outings or a trip to the

The buses are used to take some children to school and older people to day centres but are not used much outside peak times.

If approved by cabinet a pilot scheme could start later this year

The county council hopes it will help passengers who may lose their bus service after 118 routes have their subsidies cut from the

authority on July 20.
County council leader Ian
Hudspeth said: "We are the only council in the country putting forward these proposals. That is because we have got this strategic overview across the county and the vehicle resource we can utilise and provide a better service for residents.

The county council also revealed 16 of the 118 bus routes losing their subsidies will continue either in full or with some changes. A further 16 will definitely be cut and bus companies must reveal the fate of

all the rest by the end of May Details of how subsidised routes will be affected are available at oxfordshire.gov.uk/ subsidisedbuses

## Snappers' unique project





Postbox by Banbury Town Hall and, right, a car and caravan on Bridge Street

Kieran Davey kdavev@ngo.con

YOUNG photographers have found a novel way of taking unique snaps of their local

Members of the Grimsbury Youth Action Team, in Banbury, have been taking pictures of different sites featuring miniature models of people.

With the help of photographer Suzy Prior, the team have been learning a range of new camera

skills before they were tasked with taking pictures to present the community from a different perspective.

They have been presenting the fi-nal work at a special exhibition at Naomi's Cafe Bar in Bridge Street. The project was created with sup-

from the OYAP (Oxfordshire

Youth Arts Partnership) Trust.
Project co-ordinator Carmen Hoepper said: "Not only did we challenge ourselves to learn new creative and technical photography skills but we challenged our attitudes as we began to think differently about our space.

Initially the group had wanted to include an animated character, but decided to use miniature plastic people as they wanted to demonstrate the idea that their area of Banbury was "alive with possibility".

The exhibition closed on Tuesday

and the photographs have now been taken to OYAP's base in Bicester, The Studio in Launton Road, where they will be presented in an art display by the charity's Youth of Bicester action team as part of North Oxford-shire's Artweeks exhibition.

The project has also received fund-ing from social housing providers Sanctuary Housing. Neighbourhood partnerships man-

ager Kate Winstanley said: "The

young people have excelled in their creativity with this project and it's fantastic to see the unique way they have chosen to present local sites in Grimsbury.

Funding is provided by the provider's Community Investment Fund which supports residents living in their homes and their communities.

About 1,000 artists and designer makers will be taking part in Oxfordshire Artweeks, which runs until May 30. In Banbury, painters, designers, potters, sculptors, photographers, jewellers and textile artists will open their homes and studios free to showcase their talent.



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## Full of torturous subplots

X-MEN: APOCALYPSE (12A, 144 mins) Action/Sci-Fi/Fantasy/ Romance. James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender, Jennifer Lawrence, Oscar Isaac, Nicholas Hoult, Sophie Turner, Evan Peters, Kodi Smit-McPhee, Lucas Till, Tye Sheridan, Ben Hardy, Olivia Munn, Alexandra Shipp, Rose Byrne. Director: Bryan Singer TOO many kooks spoil the broth of director Bryan Singer's

fourth tour of duty with the Marvel Comics mutants, which began in 2000 with X-Men.

Simon Kinberg's messy script bursts at the seams with tortured characters and subplots vving for our attention. bloating the running time to close to two-and-a-half hours. It's a physical ordeal for us, but

too little time for X-Men: Apocalypse to do justice to a menagerie of gifted misfits on both sides of a conflict that reduces several capital cities to rubble.

The arch-villain is omnipotent, but this otherworldly tyrant chooses to waste precious time recruiting less powerful mutants to do his bidding.

Ten years have passed since the cataclysmic events of X-Men: Days Of Future Past, which saw Logan (Hugh Jackman) travel back in time to 1973 to make contact with the young Professor X (James McAvoy) and Magneto (Michael Fassbender) and neutralise the Sentinel program of killer

It's now the early 1980s and the very first mutant, En Sabah Nur (Oscar Isaac), reawakens after thousands of years of inactivity.

He is disgusted by the state of mankind and resolves to create a new world order with the help of his four devoted horsemen of the apocalypse: Angel (Ben Hardy), Psylocke (Olivia Munn), Storm (Alexandra Shipp) and Magneto. Professor X and Raven (Jennifer Lawrence) vow to protect mankind and assemble a team of young X-Men to avert Armageddon.

98 mins) Drama/Romance./ Comedy. Tom Hanks, Alexander Black, Sarita Choudhury, Sidse Babett Knudsen, Khalid Laith, David Menkin, Christy Meyer Megan Maczko, Mohamed Attifi. Director: Tom Tykwer

ADAPTED from Dave Eggers' novel by writer-director Tom Tykwer, A Hologram For The King is a misshapen, muddled yet curiously engaging love story that will draw comparisons to Salmon Fishing

In The Yemen.
Forbidden romance blossoms in the arid landscapes of the Middle East, irrigated here by sizzling screen chemistry between Tom Hanks and the luminous Sarita Choudhury.

Tykwer ensures that the central character's existential crisis doesn't weigh too heavily, courtesy of farcical narrative detours and side swipes at Saudi Arabian culture.

These polished barbs are gifted largely to Alexander Black in the scene-stealing role of a taxi driver called Yousef, who ferries Hanks' beleaguered businessman to various meetings while commenting on the sorry state of his nation

There are big laughs too when the men awkwardly bond through the medium of American rock music

A bulbous growth on the lead character's back provides the film with a puss-filled metaphor for the woes that weigh down Hanks' everyman.

Under the influence of alcohol he attempts to lance the cyst and not for the first time, we wince at Tykwer's film.

An opening sequence set to the Talking Heads' anthem *Once In* A Lifetime introduces us to world-weary salesman Alan Clay (Hanks), who has been despatched to Riyadh to woo King Abdullah (Mohamed Attifi) with his company's state-of-theart 3D conferencing technology.

The problems begin when Alan oversleeps on the first morning



and misses a scheduled meeting with the King's assistant Karim Al-Ahmad (Khalid Laith).

A Hologram For The King relies heavily on Hanks' innate likeability and comic timing, and he plies both with precision.

The plot around him feels like it might blow away in the first sandstorm, but Hanks stands firm, kindling palpable sparks with Choudhury in her underwritten role.

The pivotal sales pitch to the King almost becomes redundant, but does provide Tykwer with a bittersweet punchline to a gag he sets up much earlier in the film.

Some things are worth waiting

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services. It's been a crazy

take advantage of their services.

Managing Director James Miller feels that it's all about service.

'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 10 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps.
Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.
Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and James is finding that his approach is a major factor

in his success. The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for,

which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.' So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give lames a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be beaute belon!



### CakeWhat's on

The Lubetkin Legacy by Marina Lewycka published in hardback by Fig Tree, £14.99 (ebook

THE bestselling author of A Short History Of Tractors In Ukrainian returns to page-turning form with this addictive tale of death. (a lack of) sex, and the London property market. Berthold Sidebottom is a failed actor, but at least he is in possession of a council flat via his mother's link with its deceased famous architect, Berthold Lubetkin – that is, until Mum unexpectedly moves beyond the final curtain and he must stage the performance of his life to a peculiarly attractive (if flea-bitten) housing officer. Meanwhile, Violet, the girl next door, dreams of ethical accountancy from her corrupt city desk. But drama unfolds as developers set their sights on the block's cherry orchard, and Bertie and Violet must join awkward forces with a supporting cast of Ukrainians, Roma, and

dodgy council staff to fend off the chainsaws. The Lubetkin Legacy is an ode to international, multicultural London, and ultimately even the most flea-bitten come good. Hystopia by David Means, in hardback by Faber & Faber, £16.99 (ebook £8.99)

NEW York-based writer David Means is usually associated with the short story form, but here he makes his first foray into the "wide-open space" that a novel offers. Hystopia is a book within a book written by troubled Vietnam vet Eugene Allen, whom we discover committed suicide shortly before the story was published. This tricksy narrative takes place in an America where JFK is in his third term in office, having survived Oswald's assassination attempt and the country is struggling with a generation of psychologically traumatised war veterans like Allen. The solution: drug-induced amnesia. When it leads to a one-man killing spree

this "solution" soon transpires to be anything but. Opening the novel with editor's and author's notes, as well as extracts from oral narratives, shows Means' ambition to push the boundaries of speculative fiction, not to mention lending an air of authenticity to the tale Hystopia is an engaging portrait of a troubled mind, which asks a lot of its reader. At times the narrative feels disjointed and disorienting. But maybe that's the point.

The Pier Falls by Mark Haddon in hardback by Jonathan Cape, priced £16.99 (ebook £9.99) THIS collection of short stories

by the bestselling author of *The*Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time attempts to demonstrate the writer's versatility, with a mix of sci-fi, mythological fantasy and working class social realism to boot. Haddon's willingness to vary the genres might be seen by some as brave or admirable, but collectively it's clunky.

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## Cheese wins best in UK title

A CHEESE made in Oxfordshire has been crowned the best in the UK. Rollright rind washed cows' milk cheese, produced by the King Stone Dairy, was voted supreme champion at this year's Artisan Cheese Awards. The Little Rollrightbased company also won first prize in the new cheese class for the same product.

The accolades were part of the Artisan Cheese Fair weekend held at the beginning of May in Leicestershire. King Stone Dairy triumphed over 337 other entries to win a trophy and a cheque for £1,000.

Spokesman David Jowett said: "We're thrilled to win this prestigious industry award after selling our cheese for just eight months. It gives us credibility as a UK producer and proves that we're doing things right. This recognition will hopefully draw attention to our cheese from delicatessens, farm shops and wholesalers and help us to grow our production."

Awards organiser Matthew O'Callaghan said: "It's particularly pleasing to see King Stone Dairy succeed as they're a new artisan cheese maker who have only been producing for less than one year.

"A panel of experienced judges from some of the big names in the cheese world, including Neal's Yard, Waitrose and Marks & Spencer, judged the winning entry. Judges were astounded by the quality and breadth of entrants for these first year awards and the strength of British cheeses was highlighted by winning entries from across the UK and Ireland."

## Paddle do nicely for club





Paddlers taking part in Cherwell Canoe Club's open day

Pool of resources introduces people to the pleasures of splashing about in canoes

Kieran Davey

kdavey@nqo.com

MORE than 120 people splashed around in the water at Banbury's Woodgreen Leisure Centre to learn more about canoeing

Cherwell Canoe Club held an open day last Saturday to give people the chance to try out kayaks, canoes, polo boats and paddle boards.

boats and paddle boards.
Chairman Birdie Collins said: "It was a great fun day and a fantastic chance for anyone to have a go at paddling and see just what the club has to offer.

"Many had never paddled before and were grateful for the opportunity to have a go."

Club members were also available to pass on advice to visitors who were looking to join, and were able to show off the centre's facilities.

Four canoeists also took part in a sponsored paddle and other members made cakes to raise money for the club. Last month the leisure centre an-

nounced details of a £1.2 million revamp later this year.

The plans include a new health and

The plans include a new health and fitness gym suite, dance studio and spinning studio.

Other improvements will be a combined cafe and library, bigger changing rooms, toilets, a purpose-built reception area and meeting room.

For more information on joining the club go to cherwellcc.org.uk

## **BanburyCake**

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## **Oxfordshire Listings**

#### **Events**

#### **THURSDAY**

Bingo: Wantage Health & Wellbeing Centre (formerly Day Centre), Stirlings Close, Garston Lane, Wantage. 7pm. 01235 765934

Launch meeting of the Appleford. Sutton Courtenay and Milton

villages U3A: Village Hall, Hobbyhorse Lane, off Frilsham Street, Sutton Courtenay. 2pm. Free to start. 01235 848924

The Hope Within Us - More than Matter?: St. Helen's Church, West St Helen Street, Abingdon. What does it mean to be a Human Being? with Prof Keith Ward. With Q&A, followed by refreshments. For further details see www.sthelens-abingdon.org.uk/Hopewithin-us. 7.30pm. Free. 01235 520144. Witney U3A: Witney Methodist Church, High Street, Witney. AGM followed by Tim Healey talking about The Green Man. 2pm. 01993 772040.

#### **FRIDAY**

Abingdon Farmers' Market: Market Place, Abingdon. 8.30am. 01235

Krakatoa Pre-School Open Morning: Jubilee Hall, High Street, Lewknor. 9.30am. Free. 07919 081088. Ramblers walk: Village Hall. Tiddington. Leisurely 4½-mile linear walk to Thame via Rycote Park with a pub stop

at the end. 6.30pm. 01844 213467. St Mary's Flower Festival: St Mary's Church, Church Road, Thame. '90 Glorious Years'. 10am-6pm. Adults £2. Children free. 01844 213491.

#### **SATURDAY**

**Bicester and Kidlington Ramblers:** 

Village Hall, Stretton on Fosse, Gloucestershire. Hilly circular 10-mile walk from Stretton On Fosse, Bring picnic lunch. Registered assistance dogs only Leader Jenny Powls. Park near Plough Inn/Village Hall, 10am, 07879 444916. Bike Maintenance Day: The Mix

Community Space, 15 Mill Street, Wantage. Hands-on workshop. Participants will work on their own bikes Book a place. 10am. £10 per person. 07768 767787.

**Cuddesdon Church Fete:** Cuddesdon, Ripon College, Cuddesdon. 2pm. Entry £1 children free. 01865 874440

**Fashion Show and West End Hits** performance by Bladon Junior Church: Eynsham Village Hall, 46 Back Lane, Evnsham, 7.30pm, £5 per ticket. 07766 054602.

Make a wire tool sculpture: The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford. Part of the Shed Space exhibition. 1pm. £5, 01865 305305

Mind, Body, Fertility Workshop: Thame Barns Centre, Church Road, Great Haseley. A one-day practical programme to assist couples or

individuals who want to conceive and are experiencing problems. 9am. £195. 07926 004062 Palestine Unlocked - 'Flavour of

Palestine' Celebration: Stonehill Barn, Stonehill Lane, Drayton. Experience an evening of Palestinian music, culture & food in support of the 2017 Palestine Unlocked Festival. 7pm. £35 pre-booked or £40 at the door

Riverside Stomp 2016: Wallingford (22 miles) or Abingdon (9 miles), Along the Thames, Oxfordshire. To support Helen & Douglas House, providing support to terminally ill children, young adults and their families through exceptional hospice care. Tickets: £20. (under 5's): free. The 23-mile stomp starts from Wallingford at 7:30am. The nine-mile stomp starts from Abingdon at 12:30pm. All tickets include a Riverside Stomp T-shirt; a finisher's medal, fully

Abingdon to Oxford; en route refreshments to keep those energy levels high, ongoing fundraising and training support from our dedicated team, food at the finish line. 7.30am. £20 (entry fee) + £70 (sponsorship). 01865 794749.

**Sunningwell & District Gardening** Club: Sunningwell Village Hall, Main Road, Sunningwell. Annual Plant Sale. 10am. £2 (visitors £3).

Table Top and Jumble Sale: Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary, Old Didcot Road Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, 11am. Buyers entry 50p. 01491 833938.

The First Great Tiddlywink Challenge: Middleton Cheney Library. Main Road, Middleton Cheney. 2.30pm. Adult £3 / Child £1.50, per round. 01295 712949

The Hope within Us - Poetry & Conversation with Bishop Rowan Williams: St Helen & St Katharine School, Faringdon Road, Abingdon, 7.30pm. Free, advance booking required. 01235 520144.

Walk (Fieldpaths): Flowing Spring Pub car park away from the pub, Henley Road, A4155 between Caversham and Henley Berkshire SU746767 5 75 miles A circular walk via Binfield Heath, Shiplake, Thames Path and Sonning village. Bring refreshments for en route break. Pub at end of walk. Assistance dogs only. 10am. 07855 170592.

Witney Festival of Food and Drink: St Marv's Church, Church Green, Witney. 9.30am. £3 children under 12 free. 07917 126836

#### **SUNDAY**

**Dorchester Sailing Club Open Day:** Dorchester Sailing Club, Abingdon Road, Dorchester on Thames, After the club race (from 1.30pm) experienced sailors will be happy to take you for a sail. Under 16s must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult. 11am. Free.

National Gardens Scheme: The Priory Garden, Charlbury. 1.5 acres of formal terraced topiary gardens with Italianate features. Partial wheelchair access. Doges on leads. Plant sale. Home-made teas in St Mary's Church. 2pm. Adult £3, chd free.

National Gardens Scheme: Westwell Manor Westwell Burford Six acres surrounding old Cotswold manor house (not open), with knot garden, potager, shrub roses, herbaceous borders topiary, earth works, moonlight garden. auricula ladder, rills and water garden. Plant sale. 2pm. Adult £5, chd free.

Senior Specials and cream teas: Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway, Station Approach, Station Road, Chinnor. 10am. Adult £11, senior £5, child £6. 07979 055366.

Witney Giant Afternoon Boot Sale: Ducklington Showground, A415 Standlake Road, Ducklington. 10am 07974 056379

Wootton Riders: Burditch Field & Hall, Castle Road, Wootton, Woodstock, Twomile circular routes take riders through the picturesque scenery of the Cotswolds country side, winding through stunning villages and country lanes. The 50km ride is designed to inspire new comers from the age of 11 to have a go. The 102km ride (splits from the 50km ride) is more for the serious sportive riders with some challenging aspects. This event is coordinated by Friends of Wootton in partnership with British Cycling to raise funds for Wootton-By-Woodstock (CE) Primary School. 8am. £25.

#### **MONDAY**

**Buckets. Bollards and Bombs:** 

Museum of the History of Science, Broad Street, Oxford. Mats Fridlund examines the power of terrorising things and the containment of our emotions from the 19th century to the present day. Booking at https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/

To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

buckets-bollards-and-bombstickets-23173766359. 7pm. Free. 01865 277280

#### **TUESDAY**

**Bicester and Kidlington Ramblers:** St Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne. Leisurely five-mile walk via Hethe. Leader Mary Gough. 10am. 07939 826412.

Floral demonstration: Bicester Methodist Hall, Victoria Road, Bicester, Bicester Floral Club presents a demonstration entitled 'A Champagne Afternoon Tea' by Julia Mitchell. 7pm. £5. Rachel Cooke: 'Her Brilliant

Career: Putting Women Back in the Picture': Wolfson College, Linton Road, Oxford, 5,30pm, Free

#### **WEDNESDAY**

**Cotswold Decorative & Fine Arts** Society: Bradwell Hall, Bradwell Burford. A Special Interest Day. 'An Introduction to Modern Art' by Linda Smith, 10.15am, Booking essential, Nonmembers £33 includes lunch.

Fabric bowls with Ann Batchelor: The Mix Community Space, 15 Mill Street, Wantage. Upcycle fabrics into a bowl in this afternoon workshop. 2pm. Free 07768 767787

National Gardens Scheme: Upper Chalford Farm, Between Sydenham and Postcombe, Chinnor. Evening opening with wine or Pimms, Jacobean farmhouse garden surrounded by fields, old roses, shrubs and perennials. Unusual trees, an ancient black pine and Caucasian wingnut tree. Hidden gardens with different plantings and peaceful places to sit. Features incl topiary, wildlife ponds, conservatory, sundials and donkeys. Wheelchair access. Plant sale. Teas. 4pm. Adult £4, chd free. 01844 351320

Ramblers walk: Watlington Recreation ground Car Park, Watlington. 6½-mile walk via Christmas Common and Watlington Park. 10am. 01865 890829.

#### Music

#### **THURSDAY**

The Oxford Golf Club, Hill Top Road, Oxford: Big Band Evening featuring The Velvet Tones, The Sisters of Swing and the Big Swing Band. Free. 8pm, 01865 242158.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Ryan McGarvey. The Haven Club. Blues. 8pm. £10 (adv), £12 (otd), £5 (NUS).

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Brandon Allen. The Spin Jazz Club. Jazz saxophonist accompanied by The Spin Trio, 8.30pm, £10, £8 (conc).

The Cock Inn. Combe: Nick Gill. Classic jazz and ragtime piano/vocals. 8pm Free

#### **FRIDAY**

Angel, Market Square, Witney: Jason Pegg. Free. 9pm. 01993 703238. **Great Western Staff Association** Club. Station Road. Didcot: Pete Boss & the Blue Hearts. Didcot Red Hot Blues Club. £5 on the door. 8.30pm. 01235 412256

General Foods S&S Club, Spiceball Park, Banbury: The Summits. Male covers duo. 8pm. 01295 252852. Holywell Music Room, Holywell Street, Oxford: The Arild Andersen Trio featuring Tommy Smith & Paolo Vinaccia.

European jazz scene, £17 (£12 concession). 7.30pm. 01865 305305.

Sheldonian Theatre, Broad Street, Oxford: Vivaldi: The Four Seasons, La. Serenissima, Adrian Chandler, violin/ director, Peter Whelan, bassoon, Preconcert talk at 6.30pm with Adrian Chandler. £10-£42. 7.30pm. 01865 244806

St John the Evangelist, Iffley Road, Oxford: Public Passions with Alan Rusbridger, ex-editor of The Guardian The Orchestra of St John's, conductor John Lubbock, plays Alan's choice of music. £25/20/15. 7.30pm. 07775 904626 The White House, Abingdon Road,

Oxford: The Brokedown Palace. Oxford Folk Club. £6. 8.30pm. 01865 768128. The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: John Metcalfe Band, Barney Morse-Brown. Classical multiinstrumentalist, composer & producer 7pm, £10.

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: NeverInd, Red Crow, Jonny Payne & The Thunder. Coldredlight, Esme Neale. Local bands showcase. 7pm. £7.

Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon, Checker Walk, Abingdon: SwingTime with Steve Waterman, Abingdon Jazz Festival 715pm £12

#### **SATURDAY**

Benson Parish Hall, Sunnyside, Benson: An Exciting Handbell Concert. A concert by Gay and Alan (from Britain's Got Talent) and Launton Handbell Ringers. £2.50. 4pm. 0796 4615428.

St Helen's Church, West St Helen Street, Abingdon: The Creation. By Haydn. £12 / £10/ £1 child. 7pm. 01235 521392.

St Michael's Church, Church Lane, Cumnor: Moonrakers. Folk. £10. 7.30pm 01865 863124

St Denys' Church, Church Green, Stanford in the Vale: 'Some Enchanted Evening'. Music in the Vale concert with Claire-Louise Lucas mezzo-soprano and Jonathan Darnborough - piano. £12. 7.30pm. 01367 718420.

Thame Leisure Centre, Oxford Road, Thame: Verdi Requiem. Avlesbury Choral Society with conductor Jeff Stewart, Uxbridge Choral Society and Aylesbury Concert Orchestra. £12, £5 (under 18s), 7,30pm, 01296 640221,

The Swan Inn, Shipton Road, Ascott-under-Wychwood: Steve Ashley. Wychwood Folk Club. £10 in advance, £12 on the door, 8pm, 01993 Windrush SC, High Street, Witney:

Deano & Clair, 9pm, 01993 702207. Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon, Checker Walk, Abingdon: Pete Oxley & Nicholas Meier Quartet, Abingdon Jazz Festival. Guitar-based music. Jazz via Latin, Spanish and oriental influences 730pm £15

Abingdon Museum, Market Square, Abingdon: Fleur Stevenson Trio. Jazz under the Museum. Abingdon Jazz Festival. In the Mousehole cafe beneath Abingdon Museum. 1pm. Free. Abingdon Abbey Buildings

Checker Walk/Thames Street. Abingdon: The Oxford Jazz Trio perform with South African singer Maxine Day. Abingdon Jazz Festival, 3pm, Free,

The Brewery Tap, Ock Street, Abingdon: Funk Bake. Abingdon Jazz Festival. A seven-piece instrumental ensemble perform Jazz-funk classics 9nm. Free.

Abingdon Museum, Market Place, Abingdon: Jez Cook Trio perform on the roof of Abingdon Museum. Abingdon Jazz Festival 4pm. £18.50.

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: Mike Peters Former Alarm frontman. 6.30pm. £18.

#### SUNDAY

Blue Boar, Goddards Lane, Chipping Norton: Joe Holic. Free. 5.30pm. 01608 643525.

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: The Joy Formidable. Welsh rockers promoting third album 'Hitch' 7pm £15

Oxford Wine Café, 38 South Parade, Summertown, Oxford: Roger Beaujolais Quartet (vibes, guitar, bass & drums), 6.30-9pm, Free,

The Crown & Thistle, Bridge Street. Abingdon: Claire Jones Quintet. Abingdon Jazz Festival. 3pm. Free.

The Nag's Head, Bridge Street, Abingdon: Mim Gray, Tim Dawes and Tim Lapthorn Ensemble, Abingdon Jazz Festival. 5pm. Free.

#### MONDAY

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Blaenavon plus quests Brighton indie-rockers. 7.30pm. £6 adv,

#### **TUESDAY**

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Rod Kelly Quartet. Jazz at the Bully. Popular jazz pianist. 8.30pm. Free.

#### WEDNESDAY

New Theatre, Oxford, 2 George Street, Oxford: An Evening with Gordon Lightfoot. Veteran Canadian singer-songwriter. 8pm. £47.40-£52.40.

### Theatre

Glee Club, Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford: May 21, Mike Wilmot, David Trent, Tom Lucy and Joel Dommett. 7.15pm. £14.50. 0871 472 04007

Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford: May 17-21, Clybourne Park, Various times, £11.50-£27, May 25-28, The Encounter. Simon McBurney incorporates objects and sound effects into this solo performance to evoke a rainforest landscape transmitted to the audience through provided headphones.

7.30pm. £15-£31. 01865 305305.

The Old Court Room, Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford: May 19, We Will Not Fight. Under Construction Theatre company will present a dramatic re-staging of WW1 Pacifist Trials. 7.30pm. Free but donations welcome, 01865 251421.

Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot: May 21.

Richard Herring: Happy Now? 8pm. £15, £13.50 (concs). May 22, Curious (family and children's theatre for ages 0-3). 0am, 11.30am and 2.30pm, £6, May 24-25, Light Show (for children with profound and multiple learning difficulties). 11am and 2pm. £10. 01235 515144.

Corn Exchange, Market Place, Wallingford: May 18-21, Bazaar and Rummage by Sue Townsend. Sinodun Players. 7.45pm. £10. 01491 825000. Chipping Norton Theatre, Spring

Street, Chipping Norton: May 19, The Girl Who Fell In Love With The Moon. Puppetry, poetry, movement and live music. 7.45pm. £14, £12. May 21, Gyles Brandreth. Word Power! 7.45pm. £20.50, 01608 642350.

Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road, Didcot: May 20. Rob Beckett, Mouth of the South tour. 7.30pm. Adults £14; concessions £12. 01235 512436.

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## **Duo shine in Banbury win**

### Sabin and Patterson help maintain strong start

BANBURY made it two wins out of two in Division 1 of the Serious Cricket Home Counties Premier League when they edged out Finchampstead by 24

A third-wicket stand of 148 between Lloyd Sabin (70) and Kurtis Patterson, whose 84 came of 96 balls, enabled Banbury to reach 251-8 from their

Finchampstead were in trouble at 68-4, but the lower half of the order batted strongly, and it was only when Ollie Wright claimed the final wicket on 227 in the penultimate over

## CRICKET

that Banbury could relax.	
H Darby run out	
C Haupt c Rogers b Carter	19
L Sabin run out	70
K Patterson c Kang b Uttley	84
L Ryan b Marles	1
J West run out	23
W Hawtin run out	
K Penhale c Lincoln b Marles	19
O Wright not out	7
C Hill not out	1
Extras	20
Total (8 wkts, 50 ovs)	251
Fall: 1-15, 2-25, 3-173, 4-174, 5-221, 6-221, 7-224, 8-24	
0 1 0 1 404544 11 1 54450 0	

FINCHAMPSTEAD
A Dewes c Sabin b Taylor
M Jones b Penhale
D Marles st Hawtin b West

## 

Banbury H Wycombe Henley Tring Park Gt Tew Burnham Reading Slough Finchampste Harefield



Zoe Pollock on her way to third in the 200m Picture: Steve Wheeler

#### **ATHLETICS**

### **Dawes leads** way with three county titles

SEVERAL Banbury athletes starred in the Oxfordshire County Championships at

Under 20 Michael Dawes clinched a treble in the throwing events, winning the hammer, shot and discus.

In the same category, Alfie Rowett secured the 100m and 200m sprint double, a feat replicated by Ollie Sprio in the under 17

Charlie Yates took the long jump honours. In the under 13 category, Christopher Charles stole the headlines by winning the 200m, 75m hurdles and shot. Oliver Clamp

won the long jump.
In the girls, Abbey Anson and Zoe Pollock were successful in the under 17 sprint events.

Anson beat Pollock to win the 100m, before the pair came second and third respectively in the 200m.

Emily Thompson won the 800m, while Shannon Davies clinched the hammer and

In the under 15 category, Jenny Hannah

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## **Hospital raises its rating**

Manager praises team after going from 'inadequate' to 'good' in just eight months

Kieran Davey kdavey@nqo.com

A PRIVATE hospital manager praised her staff's "hard work and dedication" when it was given a rating of good at a recent inspection, eight months after being told to make urgent improvements.

Foscote Private Hospital in Banbury was visited in July by inspectors from the health watchdog Care

Quality Commission (CQC), which deemed it "inadequate".
Staff members were found taking on roles in operating theatres—such as handling surgical instruments - which they were not properly trained for, and risk assessments for medicines were not carried out correctly.

But following months of hard work by the hospital's management and staff, they have been told all the

requirements have been told an the requirements have been met.

Hospital manager Ruth Thompson said: "When we got the first report all the staff took it hard.

"There has been a lot of change for them recently. We have a great team and some have been with us

for quite a while.

"They are a dedicated team with one aim – to preserve the safety of our patients."



Foscote Hospital, Banbury, which has been rated 'good' after a recent inspection

Following the first report, hospital staff have been undergoing extra training to meet national guidance, and have been given extra help with risk assessments.

Mrs Thompson said a new database had been set up to provide more detailed records of clinical incidents and complaints, and some of the hospital's trustees had been given bigger roles on the manage-ment committee.

She added: "We have worked so hard. We were expecting something

good but to get the rating we got was fantastic.

"We want to go further now. We have looked at what the report said and are looking to improve so we

can go up to the next level.
"This has been an independent hospital since 2014 and it is now that we want to start growing

In the report, published on Monday, the hospital was rated as "good" in all the major categories including safe, effective and well-led services. It said staff reported incidents in line with hospital policy risk assessments for patients were completed and there were processes in place for patients who became unwell.

Inspectors added that staff were able to describe the different types of abuse and understood the importance of raising safeguarding con-

When the first report was published the hospital was told that it could face measures such as restricting admissions or fines if it did not improve standards.

### Capability's profile raised

THE grounds of Blenheim Palace in Woodstock are known across the world for their stunning beauty – yet the man behind their design is far less famous.

Now a festival this year is aiming to raise the profile of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, 300 years after the birth of the renowned landscape artist. It includes an interactive map online of all the parks and grounds he helped to shape, with Aynhoe Park and Adderbury House, both near Banbury, among the 13 sites in

A five-minute animation film has also been produced to explain 18th century landscape architecture, Brown's biography, the 250 landscapes that he designed across England and Wales, and answers to questions such as 'how many football pitches fit into the grounds of Blenheim Palace?'

It has been made with help from the National Trust, The Gardens Trust, Historic Houses Association

and English Heritage.
Capability Brown Festival director
Ceryl Evans said: "This new animation is a fantastic way to introduce new audiences to the life and work of Lancelot Capability

Brown, showing why he is still so important today.
"We hope this film will specifically appeal to younger audiences who might not be too familiar with 18th century landscape architecture, and you never know – we might just inspire the next Capability Brown."

To view the map of Capability

Brown's parks and gardens near you, or to find out more, visit capabilitybrown.org



























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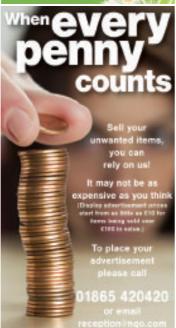
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Announcements - Public Notices

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COURT NO 108 of 2006 RE: DAVID JOHN FRASER

Of 65 Worton Road, Chipping Norton, Middle Barton, Oxon OX7 7EF. HGV Driver. Lately residing at 7 Rectory Crescent, Chipping Norton, Middle Barton, Oxon OX7 7BP.

D.O.B: 6 February 1968 NOTE: the above-named

was discharged from the proceedings and may no longer have a connection with the addresses listed.

I intend to pay within four months from 16th June 2016 (being the last day for proving) the first and final dividend of 21 p/£. Creditors who have not yet

proved their debts must proved their debts must do so by 16th June 2016 (being last day of proving) otherwise they will be excluded from the dividend. The required proof of debt form is available on the Insolvancy Service website. Insolvency Service website Insolvency Service website (www.bis.gov.uk/insolvency, select "Forms" and then form 6.37). Alternatively, you can contact my office at LTADT, West Wing, Ground Floor, Brunel, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4AF, telephone 01634 894 7000 to supply a form.

Mr D Gibson, Official Receiver and trustee

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Typical property at Longford Park in Bodicote; right, Sebrina and Leon O'Rourke, Lake and Harvey at Longford Park

# New development is the right fit for growing family

A COUPLE say they have found their dream home on a new development in Bodicote.

Sebrina and Leon O'Rourke moved into a four-bedroom house on Longford Park three months ago.

Mr and Mrs O'Rourke, with son Harvey and daughter Lake, swapped their old three-bedroom 1930s house on the other side of town for a Taylor Wimpey 'Langdale'-style property. Mrs O'Rourke, who works as a Gill Oliver

gill.oliver@nqo.com

childminder, said: "We were already living in Banbury and wanted to stay local, both for the children at school and for my business, so Longford Park was the perfect location for us.

"The Langdale is everything we wanted – it offers more space for our family and the children I look after during the day." She added: "It's ideal, because we have two reception rooms, so one can be used as a play room and Leon and I still have our own space."

Mrs O'Rourke said the family's previous house had "a limited" living area and little space for Lake to play.

She pointed out: "The L-shape layout of this property really appealed to us as it was quite different and we love the open-plan living space.

"We looked at other four-bedroom

designs but none of them stood out to us like the Langdale did.

"We have a much bigger garden than at our last home – which is better for Harvey as he's football mad and there wasn't enough room for him to kick a ball about before."

Mrs O'Rourke said they were pleased with their plot, which is at the bottom of the development and not overlooked. She added: "This is more than a dream house for us." Taylor Wimpey properties at Longford Park include two-bedroom apartments from £205,000 and three-bedroom houses from £280,000.

The sales information centre, off Oxford Road, is open daily from 10am to 5pm, except Mondays which is 1pm to 5pm.

For more information about Taylor Wimpey at Longford Park call 01295 230861 or 01235 541900 or visit www.taylorwimpey.co.uk.

Contact property writer Gill Oliver with your stories on 01865 425475 or email propertyedit@ngo.com













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119 Broom Way

property. The property comprises a separate kitchen with fridge freezer and wash are three bedrooms and a family bathroom with bath and shower. The property

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Thursday, May 19, 2016

## Motors - first for new cars

New Car Road Test

The definitive view by Andy Enright



## Travel in style, travel in space







SKODA'S Superb gets a smart new suit, a slicker chassis and better engines. The weird twin-opening hatch is replaced by a more conver tional rear aperture but there's still more space inside than in some London starter homes and the pricing remains sensible.

Background

If there's one thing that's defined the Skoda Superb, it's that every time it's been launched, the Czech company seems to think it'll enjoy greater success if it's pushed further upmarket. Given that the vast majority of Skoda's profits comes from small cars, that seems quite a leap of faith, but look at the way the market works and you'll start to see the logic. The Superb's rivals, amongst which you can count cars like the Ford Mondeo, the Vauxhall Insignia and the Mazda6, have done likewise. With each successive iteration they get bigger and more polished. To not follow would leave the Superb battling over some very meagre scraps.

**Driving Experience**Skoda's been dipping into the almost unlimited largesse of the Volkswagen Group to bring us some mouthwatering engine and gearbox combinations with this latest Superb. With the Superb getting petrol engines like the excellent downsized 124bhp 1.4 and even a monster 2.0-litre turbo with 276bhp, fourwheel drive and a dual-clutch DSG gearbox. In between those extremes, petrol folk get to choose between a 148bhp version of the 1.4-litre TSI unit and a DSG-only 218bhp 2.0-litre TSI variant.

Go diesel and you're looking at 148bhp and 187bhp 2.0-litre TDI engines with six-speed manual or DSG 'boxes. Both of these engines are also available with all-wheel drive options. Dealers will also take orders for a super-frugal 118bhp 1.6litre Green Line version emitting just 96g/km of CO2.

Design and Build
The big news? That 'Twindoor' dual tailgate, where you could lift the metal part like a boot or raise the whole thing like a tailgate, has been ditched. Though this very clever piece of design had become a bit of a Superb hallmark, it was heavy and customer feedback suggested that it was of marginal benefit. That's why this latest Superb has a far more conventional hatchback mecha nism. The styling of the MK3 model looks a whole lot sharper than before, with clean surfacing and crisp angles. It mirrors the style of

the latest Fabia, which ditched the curves for something a lot more architectural.

#### Market and Model

Expect to pay from around £18,500 if you want your Superb in saloon form - or around £20,000 if you want to order the car as an estate. Diesel power requires a premium of around £1,500 over the petrol alernative. As for trim, well even the base Superb S models get a decent run at the equipment list. Here you'll find alloy wheels, air conditioning, LED rear lights, DAB digital radio and a touchscreen infotainment system. A 'Multi-Collision brake' set-up triggers automatic brake intervention upon detection of a collision. The SE models start from just over £21,000 and add 17-inch Helios alloy wheels dual-zone air conditioning, rear parking sensors and cornering front fog lights. The SE's impressive specification also includes Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC) and SmartLink - a system that allows smartphone owners to show their phone's display on the car's infotainment screen.

#### Cost of Ownership

Skoda has forged its modern-day reputation on building quality cars that aren't expensive to run. Here's another one. The new-generation MQB platform it's based upon makes this car up to 75kg - about the weight of an average adult - lighter than it was before and that, along with the Volkswagen Group's latest Euro6 engine technology, has led to improvements of up to 20% when it comes to efficiency. As a result, this Superb shouldn't really cost much more than its smaller Octavia sta-blemate to run. As before, there's an 'Energy Recovery' set-up to reclaim energy that would otherwise be lost under braking or during cruising. And the usual Start/stop system to cut the engine when you don't need it, stuck at the lights or waiting in traffic. Plus the driver can do his or her bit by keeping an eye on the gearshift indicator on the dash.

The Skoda Superb looks the part, making it ever easier to convince those whose car views are at least a decade out of date that a Skoda deserves a place on your shortlist if vou're in the market for a mediumranger. Compared to a Mondeo or a Mazda6, a Superb represents a very different take on the theme. The Mazda is a pin-sharp drive, the Mondeo tries to blend size and sprightliness, but the Superb makes no real pretence at sportiness,

instead offering a reassuring heft and vault-like build quality.

Above all, the Superb delivers space, and that's a quality you can never really have too much of in this corner of the market. Why? Because it's the one attribute where more mainstream marques can really land a telling blow on the premium badges. A BMW 3 Series or a Jaguar XE is never going to be able to offer as much space inside as a Skoda Superb. It's just not remotely viable, so for those who need something cut from more generous cloth, give the Skoda the once over. It's slick, presentable and, yes, simply clever.

#### Facts at a glance

CAR: Skoda Superb PRICES: £18,640 - £35,940 INSURANCE GROUPS: 12E-28E CO2 EMISSIONS: 95-191 g/km PERFORMANCE: [1.4 TSI 125] Top Speed 129mph / 0-62 9.9s FUEL CONSUMPTION: [2.0 TDI 190] (combined) 67.3 mpg STANDARD SAFETY FEATURES: Anti-lock brakes with brake assist and electronic brakeforce distribution, stability control, twin front, side and curtain airbags WILL IT FIT IN YOUR GA-RAGE?: Length/Width/Height 4856/1864/1477mm

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Thursday, May 19, 2016

## Motors - first for used cars

**Used Car Road Test** 

by Jonathan Crouch



## Together in electric dream







TOYOTA'S Prius remains the most recognisable hybrid vehicle on our roads and in third generation guise, it was not only greener and more frugal than its predecessor but also larger and more powerful. It was, in short, a hybrid that had more mainstream appeal and became a real viable option for many family buyers who previously would never have considered a model of this kind. Let's see how it stacks up as a used buy.

The History

Think of a hybrid-powered family car and you're probably picturing this one, Toyota's Prius. Launched in 2000, with New Millennium thoughts turning to increased auto-motive efficiency, this was the world's largest car maker showing us exactly what was possible. The original version was immediately embraced by eco-warriors the world over, who quickly also included Hollywood celebrities and assorted green-friendly politicians when the second generation 2003 version offered us the concept in smarter, more user-friendly 5-door form. But it was hardly perfect. The cabin felt smaller than the conventional Mondeo-sized models it was priced against and away from urban use, the feeble 1.5-litre petrol engine struggled, its fuel and CO2 figures falling behind those of a conventional diesel.

So in creating this third generation design, launched in 2009. Toyota had a re-think. The result was a MK3 model with a pokier 1.8-litre hybrid engine, a car that Toyota hoped could finally offer viable everyday family alternative to ordinary medium range-sized models. At the time of its introduction, it was the most efficient fiveseat family car money could buy. In 2012, Toyota also announced a Plug-in version, but its price was high and it's electric-only range relatively restricted, so sales were slow. There was also a Prius+7-seat MPV
- but we cover that separately.

Production of the conventional third generation Prius range lasted until 2015 and early the next year, Toyota launched a smarter fourth generation version

#### What To Look For

High tech models often have a ten-dency to produce a few glitches, but the MK3 model Prius has been

remarkably trouble free, Toyota ironing out some of the quirks that afflicted earlier models. There were a number of reports of 2010-era models using an excessive amount of engine oil, but this issue appears to have been sorted with later cars. We came across a few owners who had problems with the infotainment touchscreen too. Other than that, there isn't much. The skinny tyres wear rather quickly and the regenerative brakes take a little getting used to, but otherwise, as long as you get a fully stamped up service history, you should be fine. Most examples should be very well looked after but some will have been used primarily as urban scoots (they neatly sidestep the London congestion charge) and as such may well bear the scars of life on the streets.

#### On The Road

If you're one of those customers new to the hybrid concept that Toyota is hoping to attract, then there's a bit of mental adjustment necessary once behind the wheel. Push the round 'Start' button and flick the little blue CVT gearbox lever into D (hybrids are always

automatic) and there's....silence. Your first reaction is to push the button again, but no: this is how it is. In theory, assuming the batteries are charged, this Prius will run in electric-only guise at speeds of up to 31mph and will remain in milk float mode for just over a mile if you select the 'EV' (Electric Vehicle) option from the button to the left of the wheel. That's fine if you're in stop-start city motoring but out-of-town, staying batterypowered requires such a relaxed pace that you'll quickly find other irritated road users queuing up behind you. At least the spoiler bisecting the rear window means you won't be able to see them very

The ability for both battery and engine to run separately from each other as well as in tandem is one of the key things that separates this car from its closest rival from this era, Honda's slightly smaller Insight five-door hybrid model. Perhaps more significant is this Toyota's use of 1.8 rather than 1.3-litre petrol power, a 98bhp unit that's 20% more powerful than the MK2 Prius's 1.5-litre unit. Coupled to a more powerful electric motor, it

contributes to a combined power output of 134bhp. The result is progress that, though still a little more strained than you'd experience from a similarly powerful conventional petrol or diesel rival, is on the open road a big improvement on the experience served up by this car's predecessor.

Overall
In third generation guise,
Toyota's Prius finally made real world sense. As a used proposition, it's a car you can justify buying, even if you're not trying to make some kind of environmental statement. True, it isn't cheap but it's decent value for what you get, especially if you compare prices to high-efficiency diesel rivals with technology that by comparison, dates back to the Ark.

With reasonable driving dynamics, a roomy cabin and user-friendly design, this third generation model deals with all the drawbacks which used to be part and parcel of Prius ownership, creating a car that's increasingly difficult to ignore in the gloomy times we live in. Toyota's hybrid revolution continues to gather pace.

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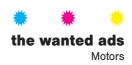
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Thursday, May 19, 2016

## Motors - first for new cars

#### New Car Launch Model Of The Week

by Jonathan Crouch



## Fancy a change of scenery?







RENAULT'S fourth generation Scenic range now has more of an up-market feel, with sleeker more sophisticated looks and cleverer technology. A range of more efficient engines mean it still stacks up well on the balance sheet and it remains nicely built, safe and very well equipped. All very good reasons to keep it well in contention against key rivals in the five-seat compact MPV segment.

**Background**The Scenic has been one of Renault's biggest contemporary success stories, selling over 4.5 million units since its launch in 1996. It's been especially popular here in the UK, filling the number one spot in the MPV sales charts for many of those years, but in more recent times has been over taken by the likes of the Vauxhall Zafira Tourer and the Ford C-MAX in the affections of British buyers. Hence the need for this completely redesigned fourth generation

Here, the design is far more stylish and driver-centric than before, plus there's more space and storage inside along with more sophisticated infotainment technology. A 'Hybrid Assist' diesel variant will tempt those in search of ultimate efficiency too. Sounds promising

#### **Driving Experience**

The focus with this latest car has been in offering customers more choice. Choice in body shapes, in trim levels and in engine options. How these compact MPV class cars drive is actually some way down the priority list for most buyers behind value for money, safety, reliability and practicality. The Scenic has never really garnered a reputa-tion as a particularly sharp steer, but that suits the sort of customers who just want something comfortable and unthreatening to do the family duties. The bulk of sales will go on the dCi diesel engines which develop 95 or 110PS in 1.5 litre form, or 130 or 160PS in 1.6litre guise.

The best seller will be the 1.5 110PS dCi variant and this derivative is also being offered with clever 'Hybrid Assist' technology. Hybrid Assist functions with a 48-volt battery, enabling the electric motor to support the internal combustion engine, which remains in continuous operation. So far so practical. There's also a very attractive 1.2-litre TCe turbo petrol unit in 115 and 130PS guises which is well worth a look if you don't cover such big mileages

Design and Build The styling is based on Renault's R-Space concept car, key features

like the steeply-raked windscreen and short bonnet heightening the elegance of its MPV silhouette. Uniquely, big 20-inch wheels are fit-ted to all versions. At the same time, the three-part screen combines a panoramic view with improved side vision. At the front, there's a more distinctive lighting signature.

Depending on version, the C-shaped front headlights benefit from LED PURE VISION technology, while Edge Light technology provides the taillights with a 3D effect. As before, the mainstream Scenic range comes in two sizes, standard with five seats and Grand with seven seats: it's the standard version we look at here, a car that claims best-in-class stowage capac-

#### Market and Model

Prices as before, are likely to sit in the £21,000 to £25,000 bracket. with the usual premium of just under £1,500 if you want the longer Grand Scenic seven-seat bodystyle. A key new safety addition this time round is the AEBS 'Active Emergency Braking System' which also has a Pedestrian Protection feature. Lane Keeping Assist and a Fatigue Detection system are additionally being offered. Along with Adaptive Cruise Control, Lane Departure Warning, a Safe

Distance Warning system, 'Traffic Sign Recognition with Over Speed Prevention' and Blind Spot Warning. Buyers can also specify a reversing camera, automatic dipped and main beam headlights, front, rear and side parking sensors and Easy Park Assist handsfree parking.

### Cost of Ownership The Scenic may no longer have

the lowest running costs in its class but they're still impressively low for a car of this size. The efficiency champion will be the 1.5litre dCi 110PS diesel model that comes with the brand's clever 'Hybrid Assist' system that works with a 48-volt battery and provides an electric motor to support the diesel engine. Even if you can't stretch to that variant though, you should find this to be a very frugal MPV. In conventional form for example, the 110PS 1.5-litre diesel. model should return nearly 70mpg on the combined cycle and not much more than 100g/km of CO2. As you would expect, all Scenic models are aided in achieving their figures by a Stop & Start system that cuts the engine when you don't need it, stuck n traffic or waiting at the lights.

#### Summary

Renault's fourth generation

Scenic is here to remind us that there's still a place for the traditional five-seat compact mini-MPV in a modern market stuffed with other, more high profile alternatives. It's practical, spacious, well built and decently equipped, as every car of this kind must be, but in this case, each of these criteria has been ticked off with a thoroughness that reminds you just who invented this market sector in the first place. Is it all enough to keep the market's

original five-seat mini-MPV as the best choice for frugal families? One thing's for certain. As a more versatile spin on spacious five-seat family motoring, the Scenic model line has a lot of life in it yet.

#### Facts at a glance

CAR: Renault Scenic PRICES: £21,000 - £25,000 [est]
INSURANCE GROUPS: 18-24 [est]
CO2 EMISSIONS: 105-150g/km

PERFORMANCE: [Scenic 1.2
TCe 130] 0-62 11.4s / top speed
118mph [est]
FUEL CONSUMPTION: [Scenic 1.2
TCe 130] (combined) 45.6mpg

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